

## EDITORIAL COMMENT



### WHO ARE THE WORKERS?

Miss McISAAC's little sermon to the members of her own alumnae, which we print in the "Miscellany" of this number, is the best bit of advice to grumblers that we have seen in a long time.

We want to be understood as indorsing most emphatically every word Miss McIsaac has said, and we would like to offer, as a New Year's suggestion, this advice to these same grumblers. Suppose by way of a change we all try the experiment of commending rather than condemning? It is a poor kind of philanthropist who always tears down, but who never reconstructs. If, for reasons adequate or not, we are not doing the work ourselves, let us try the policy of saying our little word of gratitude to those who are carrying the burden, even if they don't seem to us to be doing so very well. Perhaps they lack just the stimulus of our appreciation to carry them over the hard places. There is cold comfort in feeling that we are doing our duty, when no one else seems to care whether we are doing it or not.

The women who are doing all the hard work in our organizations are the busiest women we have. They are the women whose services are worth something, and who are never so hard pushed that they cannot manage to do one thing more.

We are coming to the conclusion that the women who "never have time" are either shirkers or incapable. However that may be, there is no reason why they should accept in silence, at the best, the effort of those who are doing the work, without some occasional expression of personal appreciation. A cold vote of thanks at the end of a long, hard public service is a heartless sort of thing, after all, while a cordial word from the rank and file sends a worker home with a glad heart. It is worth the experiment, and the new year is at hand.

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### THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE MEETING

WE call the attention of Pennsylvania nurses to the official announcement of the State meeting to be held in Harrisburg on Wednesday and Thursday, January 27 and 28. It is of great importance that the nurses of the State should become personally acquainted and learn to work together before any attempt to secure legislation is made, and this can only be done by attending meeting and discussing the important features of the bill before it is presented. Each meeting stimulates a local interest both on the part of nurses and public, and serves as an educator. We understand that a very interesting programme is being arranged and that a large attendance is expected.

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### NEW SOCIETIES

MARYLAND has organized a State association, with Miss M. A. Nutting as president and Miss S. J. Martin as secretary, and in the two-days' meeting held in Baltimore, of which the report is found upon another page, the essential

points in the formation of such a society were covered and a bill discussed and outlined.

Washington, in the District of Columbia, and Indiana have organized, Ohio will organize this month, a meeting having been called to be held in Cincinnati on January 27 and 28, Iowa is moving, and there are murmurings from a number of other States. In fact, registration is forging ahead in a manner most inspiring. 1903 was a great year; 1904 promises to be even greater.

#### THE WORK OF THE EXAMINERS

THE work of the nurse examiners is of a very tedious and laborious character. The curriculum and standing of every training-school applying for registration must be carefully investigated. This means looking over a lot of printed matter, often to find that no definite conclusion can be obtained without further and more definite information being asked for. Consequently many schools that may eventually be found to meet the requirements cannot be promptly reported.

All five members of the board in New York State are required to sign the certificates recommending the registration of both schools and individuals to the Board of Regents. The certificate recommending the registration of nurses reads as follows:

"\_\_\_\_\_, being well known to this board as meeting the professional requirements set forth in the sworn application herewith inclosed, is hereby unanimously recommended to the Regents as entitled to a certificate { without examination  
with examination in practical nursing  
with full examination }  
as a registered nurse (R. N.) pursuant to laws of 1903, ch. 293, § 206.

State Board of Nurse Examiners } [Signed] \_\_\_\_\_

This makes a careful examination of every applicant necessary, and where the nurse making the application and her three endorsers are unknown to all members of the board passing upon such papers will take much time.

The suggestion is made that nurses shall try to secure at least one endorser who is personally known to at least one member of the Board of Examiners. This will facilitate the work of the examiners, and prevent a disappointing delay for the nurses. For convenience the names of the examiners are published again:

Miss Annie Damer, 76 Huron Street, Buffalo; Miss Sophia F. Palmer, 149 Chestnut Street, Rochester; Miss J. E. Hitchcock, 265 Henry Street, New York; Mr. L. B. Sanford, 217 East Twenty-seventh Street, New York, and Miss Dorothea Macdonald, 90 Hewes Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

#### PRELIMINARY TRAINING

ALTHOUGH agitation for State registration and preliminary training began in this country at about the same time, State registration has made greater progress than preliminary training. A few good schools have been established, proving the practical value of the idea, and those to be commended are unquestionably the ones that are an integral part of a regular hospital training-school,

but for economic reasons the system has not become universal, although there is a marked tendency towards a modification of the idea in many directions. The universal adoption of the preliminary idea means a complete revolution in the present system of the administration of hospitals, and there are many interests besides those of the nurses' education that must be taken into consideration.

#### THE EDUCATION OF THE NURSE.

At the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Training-School of the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston on the evening of November 23, 1903, Miss M. E. P. Davis, in her remarks as the presiding officer of the occasion, referred to the subject of the education of nurses of the future in part as follows:

"The separation of the theoretical from the practical, by which the applicant is prepared to enter upon her duties intelligently as a probationer, and by which the hospital is relieved from the needless responsibility of teaching the theory at the time and place when all its energies should be devoted to the study and practice of nursing, is universally recognized by persons of advanced thought to be the only legitimate solution of the problem of the education of the nurse of the future.

"The hospital has had the controlling power, and naturally hesitates to relinquish it. Universities and technical schools, in looking about for new fields to conquer, are essaying to include the education of the nurse in their curricula. Medical men by reason of the interdependence of the two professions feel that they have the knowledge which confers the right to dictate, although Dr. Worcester has said that 'physicians look forward with hopeful anticipation to the time when they shall be relieved of much of this work by nurses who, having mastered both the science and the art of nursing, shall undertake *all* the teaching of their successors.'

"The time has now come when nurses should have a voice in fixing the standards and in controlling the methods of instruction in the proposed new order of things.

"They recognize the vital interests of the hospitals; they see where the universities and technical schools could be made most effective, economical, and valuable; and they appreciate the attitude of the medical men.

"What they hope to see accomplished is the union of all these interests and forces—in coöperation with nurses."

Before another thirty years shall have passed we believe such coöperation as Miss Davis suggests will have come about. The opposing forces, if there are any, will give way before the broader spirit.

Dr. Richard Cabot, in his address upon this occasion, dwelt at some length upon the comparative development of medicine and nursing, showing that nursing had progressed upon practically the same lines as the medical profession. He did not venture to predict the future of nursing, but if, as he showed it had in the past, the evolution of nursing is to continue to follow the evolution of medicine, the suggestion of a daring spirit that we shall eventually have our own nursing colleges, with our own hospitals attached, where nurses will be taught by nurses, is not such a wild dream after all. The younger women will live to see this accomplished.

Miss Richards's address, found in this number, loses much by being printed. Miss Richards reads so much between the lines, tells so many little stories, and

refers to so many interesting people and places, that her written pages give a most inadequate idea of what she has really said. One had the feeling in listening to her that almost everything had been done, and that we need only to go steadily on, each in our own small way, and everything would come out right.

#### THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC.

But this very comfortable feeling is soon brought to an end. Our pride and our ideals come crashing down into the dust before such a letter as the following, which is an exact reproduction of one recently received by the superintendent of one of the largest training-schools in this country. In it is shown such ignorance of nursing standards, such a woful lack of appreciation of the meaning of true dignity, that one can only in wonder exclaim, "What type of nurse has educated this hospital board? Surely our work is only just beginning." The letter reads:

"Wanted within a few weeks a graduate nurse to superintend and manage a small hospital of about twenty beds.

"This nurse will be superintendent, matron, and head nurse, and will be expected to assume full control of the institution so far as overseeing everything is concerned.

"She should have some executive ability. Age twenty-five to thirty-two; height, five feet three inches to five feet six inches; weight, one hundred and eighteen to one hundred and forty-five pounds; fine personal appearance—neat and stylish; elegant form; well-developed, good-looking, dignified; pretty mouth and teeth; splendid health; elegant disposition; popular; good education; medium complexion; pretty eyes; first-class references. Applicants will please send recent photograph, which will be returned if desired. State whether single, married, or widow; where born and raised—city or country; salary expected.

"—— HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION,

"Per —— ———"

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"Things went badly, did they?—nurses slow, bad blunders, nothing ready? Very sorry, doctor, but you know our superintendent is *great* on clothes, and she was kept at a fitting and then went to a hat sale, and—well, she simply couldn't get back in time. You know she does not care much for operations anyhow. Oh! you think the *wards* look badly too—beds untidy and patients uncomfortable? But, now, doctor, *did* you ever see such a figure? and *such* style? The solution? Well, that *was* rather bad, but don't say anything to her about it. Don't you remember how her pretty eyes filled with tears and her lovely lips trembled the day you spoke to her about the hot-water bottle burns? You say she lost her head the day that woman went into collapse? That may be, but she certainly was *very* dignified that time when the explosion of the sterilizer blew her cap off! You want to speak to her? Well, I'm sorry, doctor, but she's out driving, and she will not be in until late. You know she is so popular!"

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UNITY with courage is the watchword for 1904. May the new year bring success, and with success happiness to all who are working for the uplifting of nursing.